



CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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Background on Office of Telecommunications Transfer of Responsibilities

Since its inception in March 1982, the Office of Telecommunications (OTC) has reported directly to Denver City Council. While this had advantages when the City was negotiating its first cable franchise, clearly a policy-making legislative role, the vast majority of time involves OTC staff in administering the cable franchise, which doesn't normally require direct involvement by the Legislative branch. This proposed ordinance would thus move the franchise administration duties under Technology Service and the Administration, and staff will go through a recruitment to become Career Service Authority employees.

Salient points about this ordinance request:

- City Council will retain its role in the cable franchise negotiation and renegotiation process
- Cable franchise agreements will still come before City Council as ordinances for approval
- OTC staff currently serves at the pleasure of Council, and in order to transition to Career Service must go through the position recruitment process
- Recruitment will be internal and have special qualifications to reflect the particular expertise needed for franchise administration duties.
- CSA Board has approved a rule change which will allow OTC staff to maintain their seniority and years of service upon becoming CSA employees. This will also allow staff to retain their current DERP contributions and Rule of 75 qualifications.
- The transfer to Technology Services is "revenue neutral" in that there will be no budget increase or decrease. The OTC budget will simply move under Denver 8TV and Technology Services
- To the extent that it can, this process is meant to ensure that existing OTC staff can transfer to CSA status without threat of layoffs or budget reduction.
- The City Attorney's Office has opined that a simple ordinance is all that is required to move the OTC responsibilities to Technology Services.
- Office of Telecommunications name would be eliminated, but the responsibilities would remain